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ABSTRACT

Taking off from the theme that makes Laurence Yep such a popular and beloved young adult author--the outsider seeking identity and connection in a strange, foreign world--this study of Yep's most important works shows how his experiences as a Chinese American in San Francisco fill his stories with firsthand knowledge of what it is like to be an outsider. The study points out that Yep, through his science fiction, fantasy, and historical and contemporary novels, offers young people strategies for growing up and fitting in. Throughout the study, quotations from interviews with Yep and from his own autobiography illuminate his motivation and inspiration, as do his borrowings from Chinese mythology and his own family history. Some of Yep's books discussed in the study are "Dragon of the Lost Sea," "Sweetwater," "The Serpent's Children," "The Mark Twain Murders," "Shadow Lord," "Child of the Owl," "The Ghost Fox," "Rainbow People," "Tongues of Jade," and many more. Appendixes note awards and honors won by Laurence Yep and contain articles written by Yep about his fiction. A selected bibliography is attached. (NKA)

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